REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	28 October 1997
Name of applicant/court:	Comptroller of Customs
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	Cruising the Ferries
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Director:	Not Applicable
Producer:	Not Applicable
Publisher:	Star Distributors
Author:	Ward Michaels
Format:	Book
Country of Origin:	USA
Language:	English

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Components of film originally examined: Not Applicable.

Feature:	Running time:
Trailers:	Running time:
	Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: No.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable.

Display conditions:

Not Applicable.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The book entitled *Cruising the Ferries* is classified as:
Objectionable.

The book is objectionable because it promotes and encourages the criminal act of incest and deals with other incestuous relationships in a manner intended to sexually arouse.

The book contains a collection of chapters which each present an explicit description of sexual activity between males. The book has a simple narrative which predominantly sets the sexual activity within family relationships including uncle and nephew, and father and son. The sexual activity is described as incestuous throughout the book and is presented as titillating for this reason. Because of this singular focus the book is considered to strongly promote and encourage incest as not only a viable sexual option, but one that is stimulating and exciting.

Incest is a criminal act under s130 of the Crimes Act 1961. By strongly promoting and encouraging this act the availability of the publication is considered likely to be injurious to the public good.

Consideration has been given to the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (the NZBR Act) before making a final determination on the classification of this publication. The availability of the book is likely to be injurious to the public good because of the presentation of incestuous relationships in a manner intended to titillate and arouse the reader. Because of this likely injury the restriction on the availability of the book is considered to be a reasonable limitation of the rights and freedoms contained in the NZBR Act that can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

OFLC Ref: 9700829